development of textile industry in the country combining mill and power-loom sector together;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the draft of the proposed scheme; and

(c) the benefits likely to be achieved on combining production units of above both sectors?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doesn't arise.

(c) Doesn't arise.

Projects for handloom weavers

128. SHRI RUDRANARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revive and rejuvenate handloom weavers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of their action plan;

(c) whether it is a Centrally sponsored project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the project would cover the entire needs of this sector in each cluster for supply of raw material, marketing support, upgradation of technology and welfare of the weavers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with action plan to help the Orissa State to develop this sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has launched 3 new Centrally sponsored schemes for the revival and rejuvenation of the handloom weavers in the country.

(d) to (f) The development scheme titled 'Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme' proposes to develop 20 handloom clusters throughout the country. Following a holistic approach, the scheme will cover the entire needs of the handloom sector in each cluster for supply of raw materials, marketing support, design inputs, upgradation of technology and welfare of the weavers. Quality human resource inputs for various

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

functions will be provided to each cluster through an exclusive cluster based institution to which the Central government will provide funds directly. Customised programmes will be developed for each cluster after a detailed survey and requirement analysis.

The welfare scheme titled 'Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana' envisages to cover 10.00 lakh weavers during the current financial year and 20.00 lakh weavers in the next financial year which would cover the renewal cases also of the current financial year. The scheme would provide life insurance cover to weavers for cases of accidental or natural death or disabilities. The scheme is being implemented in collaboration with LIC.

The 'Health Insurance Scheme', also a welfare scheme, envisages to cover 3.00 lakh weavers both during the current as well as next financial year. The scheme aims at financially enabling the weavers community to access the best of healthcare facilities in the country.

Under the Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, Sonepur and Bargarh in Orissa have been identified for development. Under the 2 welfare schemes assistance to the weavers, including those of Orissa, would be imparted on the basis of viable proposals received from the State Governments.

Proposal to reduce duty on textile items

129. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though quota regime in textile sector being lifted, high rate of duty comes in the way of growth in the textile sector in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reduce duty on the textile items?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The fiscal duty structure in textile sector has been rationalized considerably during the Budget 2004-05 and 2005-06. As a result there have been positive indications of accelerated growth in investment in the textile sector.